

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 215338

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: MILITARY IMPLICATIONS AND LESSONS FOR NATO
ARISING FROM MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

REFS: A. USNATO 5029; B. USNATO 5080

1. WE AGREE THAT THE MIDDLE EAST WAR MUST BE CAREFULLY
ASSESSED FOR MILITARY LESSONS WHICH CAN BE APPLIED TO NATO.
THE USE OF THE MOST MODERN WEAPONS ON BOTH SIDES, THE
HEAVY RELIANCE UPON ARMOR, AND CROSSING WATER BARRIERS MAY
ALL HAVE TACTICAL IMPLICATIONS FOR EUROPE.

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2. WE CONCUR WITH YOUR SUGGESTION THAT NATO'S ANALYSIS SHOULD BE THROUGH THE DPC, THE MC AND SACEUR. AT THE SAME TIME WE, AND UNDOUBTEDLY OTHER ALLIES, WILL CONDUCT UNILATERAL STUDIES OF THE WAR USING NATIONAL SOURCES OF INTELLIGENCE. BEGIN FYI. WE INTEND TO SHARE OUR CONCLUSIONS WITH NATO ALTHOUGH WE ANTICIPATE NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION RESTRICTIONS WILL PRECLUDE SHARING ALL SOURCE DATA WHICH LEAD TO THESE CONCLUSIONS. END FYI. WE HOPE OTHER ALLIES WHO CONDUCT UNILATERAL EVALUATIONS WILL EITHER SHARE THEIR CONCLUSIONS WITH NATO OR USE THEIR CONCLUSIONS IN COMMENTING ON THE ANALYSIS BY NATO MILITARY STAFFS.

3. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO SUGGEST THAT NATO'S EVALUATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR A REPORT TO MINISTERS IN DECEMBER. YOU ARE IN BEST POSITION TO JUDGE STAFF WORKLOADS NOW BUT WE WOULD NOT WANT TO DIVERT STAFF EFFORT FROM OTHER IMPORTANT PROJECTS WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER. ANOTHER REASON FOR NOT ESTABLISHING A REQUIRED COMPLETION DATE IS THAT A COMPLETE DATA BASE IS NOT YET AVAILABLE. PERHAPS NATO SHOULD LIMIT ITS IMMEDIATE EFFORTS TO COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE DATA WHILE DELAYING THE ANALYSIS PHASE UNTIL SUFFICIENT DATA HAS BEEN COLLECTED AND EVALUATED AGAINST OTHER SOURCES.

4. AS TO DISCUSSING THIS TOPIC AT THE DECEMBER DPC, WE NOTE THAT THE AGENDA IS QUITE FULL, AND WE WOULD NOT WANT TO DEVOTE MUCH TIME TO SUCH DISCUSSIONS IF OUR CONCLUSIONS ARE ONLY PRELIMINARY. IF THE SUBJECT IS TO BE ADDED WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY NOTIFICATION.

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